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PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS: CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

(including Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products 1/)

(Section II, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

INTRODUCTION

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretary-General of the Conference in response to the decision 3/23 of the Preparatory Committee taken at its third session as set out in document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.21/Rev.1. It is based on guidance provided by the Preparatory Committee on the structure of Agenda 21, as contained in A/CONF.151/PC/L.49*. All texts quoted from the PrepCom III document, A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.19/Add.3/Rev.1, are to be found inserted between double asterisks (** < > **) with the reference to the specific relevant paragraph number. Where the text has been modified, the double asterisks have been left out and the words "Derived from" have been inserted before the reference to paragraph numbers.

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2. (Derived from p. 1-2) ‹ A substantial use of chemicals is essential to meet the social and economic goals of the world community and today's best practice demonstrates that they can be widely used, cost effectively, and with a high degree of safety. However, a great deal remains to be done to extend the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, to undo the mistakes of the past, and to harness the carefully chosen use of chemicals to the principles of sustainable development and improved quality of life in every country and every community across the globe. One of the major problems here is the lack of sufficient scientific information for the assessment of risks of a great number of chemicals. Another problem is the lack of resources to assess chemicals for which data are at hand.

3. Other problems are related to the fact that the introduction of chemicals and of chemically-related industries in developing countries, which still lack the infrastructure and trained human resources for chemical safety, is often carried out on a basis which is far from environmentally-sound. ›

4. (Derived from p. 3) ‹ Gross chemical contamination, with grave damage to human health, genetic structures and reproductive outcomes, and the environment, has continued in recent times in some of the world's most important industrial areas. Restoration will require major investments and development of new techniques. The importance of long-range transport of pollution, with effects which can extend even to the fundamental chemical and physical processes of the Earth's atmosphere and climate, is only recently becoming understood. ›

5. (Derived from p. 4) ‹ A considerable number of international bodies are involved in work on chemical safety. In many countries work-programs for the promotion of chemical safety are in place. Such work has international implications as chemical risks do not respect national boundaries. However, a significant strengthening of both national and international efforts is needed to achieve an environmentally sound management of chemicals. ›

6. Five programme areas are proposed with the following objectives:

a) (Derived from p. 5) ‹ Beneficial use of chemicals for sustainable development and safe manufacturing use, handling and disposal with minimum risks to health and the environment.

b) [Prevention of the uncontrolled exports of banned or severely restricted chemicals to developing countries which have neither the know-how, nor the capacity to manage such chemicals.]

c) [Promotion of specific procedures and infrastructure development to enable countries to take well informed decisions on the management of toxic chemicals.]

d) [Adoption of precautionary and anticipatory strategies for environmentally sound management of chemicals in each country not later than the year 2000 with implementation as soon as possible thereafter]. ›

7. (Derived from p. 7-9) < The five programme areas are together dependant for their successful implementation on, intensive international work and improved coordination of current international activities, as well as on the identification and application of technical, scientific, educational and financial means, in particular for developing countries. To varying degrees, the programme areas involve hazard assessment (based on the intrinsic properties of chemicals), risk assessment (including assessment of exposure), risk acceptability and risk management.

8. The collaboration on chemical safety between UNEP, ILO and WHO in the IPCS should be the nucleus for international cooperation on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. All efforts should be made to strengthen this programme. Cooperation with other programmes, and particularly the OECD and EC chemicals programmes, should be promoted.

9. Increased coordination of United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in chemicals assessment and management should be further promoted. Within the framework of IPCS, an intergovernmental meeting, convened by the Executive Director of UNEP, was held in London in December 1991 to further explore this matter. (Recommendations of the meeting will be summarized in Addendum I to this document). >

10. ** (p. 10) < The broadest possible awareness of chemical risks is a prerequisite for achieving chemical safety. The principle of community right to know should therefore, be recognized and the industry initiative on responsible care and product stewardship should be developed and promoted. Large industrial enterprises including transnational corporations, should apply adequate standards of operation in all countries in order not to damage human health and the environment. > **

PROGRAMME AREAS

A. EXPANDING AND ACCELERATING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICAL RISKS

Basis for Action

11. (Derived from p. 11) < The assessment of risks to human health and environment that a chemical may cause is a prerequisite to planning for its safe and beneficial use. Out of the approximately 100,000 chemical substances in commerce and the thousands of substances of natural origin with which human beings come into contact, many substances appear as pollutants and contaminants in food, commercial products and the various environmental media. Fortunately, the exposure to most chemicals is rather limited as most are used in very small amounts. Some 1,500 chemicals cover over 95 per cent of the total world production. But a serious problem is that even for a great number of high volume production chemicals, crucial data for risk assessment are often lacking. > Within the framework of the OECD Chemicals Programme such data are now being generated for a number of these chemicals.

12. ** (p. 12) ‹ Risk assessment is resource-intensive. It could be made cost-effective by strengthening international cooperation and better coordination, thereby making the best use of available resources and avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts. › **

Objectives

13. (Derived from p. 13) ‹ Strengthening of international risk assessment. About 500 priority chemicals or groups of chemicals, including major pollutants and contaminants of global significance, should be assessed by the year 2000, using current selection and assessment criteria. ›

14. (Derived from p. 14 b) ‹ Produce guidelines for acceptable exposure for a greater number of substances, based on peer review and scientific consensus distinguishing between health or environment based exposure limits and those relating to socio-economic factors. ›

Activities

Management-related:

15. Relevant international organizations, with active participation of Governments, 2/ and industry should:

a) (Derived from p. 14 a) ‹ Strengthen and expand programmes on chemical risk assessment within the United Nations system (IPCS: UNEP, ILO, WHO; FAO), together with other organizations including OECD, based on an agreed approach to data quality assurance, application of assessment criteria, peer review and linkages to risk management activities. ›

b) ** (p. 14 e) ‹ Promote mechanisms to increase collaboration amongst government, industry, academia and relevant NGOs, involved in the various aspects of risk assessment of chemicals and related processes, in particular promoting and coordinating research activities to improve understanding of the mechanisms of action of toxic chemicals. › **

c) (Derived from p. 14 k) ‹ Encourage the development of procedures for countries to exchange their assessment reports on chemicals with other countries' for use in national chemical assessment programmes. ›

Data and Information:

16. Governments and industry, with the cooperation of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and appropriate bodies of the United Nations should:

a) ** (p. 14 c) ‹ Give high priority to hazard assessment of chemicals, that is, of their intrinsic properties as the appropriate basis for risk assessment. › **

b) ** (p. 14 j) ‹ Generate data necessary for assessment, building on, inter alia, IPCS (UNEP, WHO, ILO), OECD and EC programmes. Industry should participate actively. › **

17. Industry should provide data for substances produced that is needed specifically for the assessment of potential risks to human health and the environment. Such data should be made available to relevant national competent authorities and international bodies involved in hazard and risk assessment. (Ref. also Agenda 21 chapter on "Providing data and information for sustainable development").

International and Regional Cooperation and Coordination:

18. Relevant international organizations with active participation of Governments and industry should:

a) ** (p. 14 g) ‹ Develop criteria for priority-setting of chemicals of global concern for assessment. › **

b) ** (p. 14 d) ‹ Review strategies for assessment of exposure and environmental monitoring to allow for the best use of available resources, to ensure compatibility of data and to encourage coherent national and international strategies for exposure assessment. › **

Means of Implementation

Financial and Cost Evaluation:

19. Most of the data and methods for chemical risk assessment is generated in the developed countries and an expansion and acceleration of the assessment work will call for a considerable increase in research and safety testing by industry and research institutions. The cost projections address the needs to strengthen the capacities of relevant United Nations bodies and are based on current experience in IPCS. It should be noted that there are considerable costs, often not possible to quantify, that are not included. These comprise costs to industry and Governments of generating the safety data underlying the assessments, 3/ the costs to Governments in providing background documents and draft assessment statements to IPCS, IRPTC and OECD. They also include the cost of accelerated work in non-United Nations bodies such as OECD and EC.

20. The estimated international costs, about US$ 30 million annually, are based on the assumption that a complete evaluation of 500 chemicals will be made in the period 1993-2000.

Scientific and Technological Means:

21. Major research efforts should be launched in order to (Derived from p. 14 f) ‹ improve methods for assessment of chemicals for work towards a common framework for risk assessment and improve procedures for using toxicological and epidemiological data to predict the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment, in order to enable decision makers to adopt adequate policies and measures to reduce risks posed by chemicals. ›

Activities include:

a) (Derived from p. 14 1) ‹ Strengthen research for substitution of toxic chemicals and alternative clean technologies. ›

b) (Derived from p. 14 h) ‹ Promote research on, and validation of, methods as a replacement for those using test animals, thus reducing the use of animals for testing purposes. ›

c) ** (p. 14 i) ‹ Promote relevant epidemiological studies with a view to establishing a cause-effect relationship between exposure to chemicals and the occurrence of certain diseases. › **

Human Resource Development:

22. International organizations with the participation of Governments and non-governmental organizations should launch training and education projects involving women and children, who are at greatest risk in order to enable countries, and particularly developing countries, to make maximum national use of international assessments of chemical risks.

Capacity building:

23. (Derived from p. 40 c) ‹ International organizations [should, building on past, present and future assessment work at the international level, support countries, particularly developing countries to develop and strengthen risk assessment capabilities at national and regional levels to minimize, and when appropriate prevent risk in the manufacturing and the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals]. › Technical cooperation and financial support or contribution in kind should be given to activities aimed at expanding and accelerating the international assessment of chemical risks to enable the best choice of chemicals. Proposals on capacity building for inter alia risk assessment in countries are made under Programme area E.

B. HARMONIZATION OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Basis for Action

24. (Derived from p. 15) ‹ Adequate labelling of chemicals, based on assessed hazards to health and environment, is the simplest and most efficient way of indicating how to handle and use chemicals safely. ›

25. ** (p. 16, 17) ‹ For the safe transport of dangerous goods, including chemicals, a comprehensive scheme elaborated within the United Nations system is in current use. This scheme takes mainly into account the acute hazards of chemicals.

26. Globally harmonized classification and labelling systems are not yet available to promote the safe use of chemicals at the workplace, in the home, etc. Classification of chemicals can be made for different purposes and is a particularly important tool in establishing labelling systems. › **

27. (Derived from p. 18) ‹ [Within the framework of IPCS, in consultation with other concerned bodies, the process of harmonizing existing classification systems has been initiated]. ›

Objective

28. (Derived from p. 19) ‹ A globally harmonized classification and compatible labelling system including easily understandable symbols should be available by the year [2000]. ›

Activities

Management-related:

29. (Derived from p. 20 c) ‹ International organizations with active participation of Governments and non-governmental organizations should launch a project with a view to establishing and elaborating a harmonized classification and compatible labelling system for chemicals ** (p. 21) ‹ for use in all United Nations languages [including adequate pictograms]. Such a labelling system should not lead to the imposition of unjustified trade barriers. › ** The new system should draw on current systems to the greatest extent possible; it should be developed and implemented in steps and aim at compatibility with labels of various applications (such as pesticides and transport) where labelling is used.

30. Data and information:

** (p. 20 a) ‹ International bodies including, inter alia, IPCS (UNEP, ILO and WHO), FAO, and with the cooperation of IMO, OECD and EC should establish a coordinating group to:

a) Make comparative studies of existing classification and labelling systems as a starting point for establishing general principles for a globally harmonized system; › ** Due account should be taken of international studies already carried out.

b) ** (p. 20 b) ‹ Draft proposals for standardization of hazard communication terminology and symbols in order to enhance risk management of chemicals, facilitate international trade and make it easier to translate the information into the end user's language. › **

Means of Implementation

Financial and Cost Evaluation:

31. A step-by-step international cooperative approach to harmonize the main existing systems, with subsequent or concurrent adoption of the resulting system, wholly or in part, by all member States before the year 2000, would limit additional costs to the work required to reconcile these systems and to assist developing countries in implementing compatible classification and labelling schemes. Around US$ 3 million would be needed annually to strengthen the capacities of international organizations to coordinate the

work of harmonization. Additional costs for technical assistance to strengthen national capacities related to work to be undertaken under this programme area are included in the costing of programme area E.

32. The benefits from these expenditures would far exceed the costs.

Humans Resource Development:

33. National Governments and institutions and non-governmental organizations, with the collaboration of appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations should launch training courses and information campaigns to facilitate the understanding and use of a new harmonized classification and compatible labelling system for chemicals.

Capacity Building:

34. Strengthening of national capacities for management of chemicals, including national adaption to new classification and labelling systems, is proposed under Programme area E.

C. INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON TOXIC CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL RISKS

Basis for action

35. The following activities are related to information exchange on the benefits as well as the risks associated with the use of chemicals and are aimed at enhancing the sound management of chemicals through the exchange of scientific, technical, economic and legal information.

36. (Derived from p. 22) ‹ The London guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade are a set of guidelines adopted by Governments with a view to increasing chemical safety through the exchange of information on chemicals. › Special provisions have been included in the Guidelines with regard to the exchange of information on banned and severely restricted chemicals.

37. (Derived from p. 23-24) ‹ The export to developing countries of chemicals which have been banned in producing countries or whose use has been severely restricted [in some industrialized countries] has been the subject of concern as some importing countries lack the ability to assure safe use, due to inadequate infrastructure for controlling the availability, storage, formulation and disposal of chemicals.

38. In order to address this issue, provisions for Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedures were introduced in 1989 in the "London Guidelines for the exchange of information on chemicals in International Trade" (UNEP) and in the "International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides" (FAO). In addition a joint FAO/UNEP programme has been launched for the operation of the PIC procedures for chemicals including the selection of chemicals to be included in the PIC procedure and preparation of PIC decision guidance documents. The ILO chemicals convention calls for communication between exporting and importing countries when hazardous chemicals have been prohibited for reasons of safety and health at work. [Within the GATT

framework, negotiations are being pursued with a view to create a binding instrument on products banned or severely restricted in the domestic market]. ›

39. Notwithstanding the importance of the PIC procedure, information exchange on all potentially toxic chemicals is necessary.

Objectives

40. ** (p. 25-26) ‹ Intensified exchange of information on chemical safety between all involved parties.

41. Full implementation of the Prior Informed Consent procedure [including mandatory applications through legally binding instruments] contained in the amended London Guidelines and in the FAO International Code of Conduct by the year [2000]. › **

Activities

Management-related:

42. Governments and industries of countries exporting chemicals as well as international organizations, should:

a) Strengthen national institutions responsible for information exchange on toxic chemicals and promote creation of national centres where these do not exist.

b) ** (p. 27 d) ‹ Strengthen international institutions and networks such as the IRPTC, responsible for information exchange on toxic chemicals. › **

c) (Derived from p. 27 b) ‹ Establish technical cooperation with and provide information to other countries, especially those with shortages of technical expertise, including training in the interpretation of relevant technical data, such as Environmental Health Criteria Documents and Health and Safety Guides (published by the International Programme on Chemical Safety - IPCS), IARC Monographs (published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer), Decision Guidance Documents (data provided through the FAO/UNEP joint programme on PIC) and those submitted by industry or by other sources. ›

d) ** (p. 27 c) ‹ [Invite UNEP and FAO to work expediously towards the conclusion of the necessary legally binding instrument.] › **

Data and Information:

43. Governments and industries of countries exporting chemicals as well as international organizations should:

a) Assist in the creation of national chemical information systems in developing countries and improve access to existing international systems.

b) (Derived from p. 27 e) ‹ Improve databases and information systems on toxic chemicals, including emission inventory programmes, through provision of training in the use of these systems as well as soft- and hardware and other facilities. ›

c) (Derived from p. 27 a) ‹ Provide knowledge and information on severely restricted or banned chemicals to importing countries to enable them to judge and take decisions on whether to import, and how to handle, these chemicals and establish joint responsibilities in trade of chemicals between importing and exporting countries. ›

d) Provide data necessary to assess risks to human health and the environment of possible alternatives to banned or severely restricted chemicals.

44. (Derived from p. 28) ‹ United Nations organizations should provide as far as possible, all international information material on toxic chemicals in all United Nations languages. ›

International and Regional Cooperation and Coordination:

45. (Derived from p. 27 f) ‹ Governments and industries of countries exporting chemicals, as well as international organizations, should cooperate in strengthening and expanding the network of designated national authorities for the exchange of information on chemicals and establish a technical exchange programme to produce a core of trained personnel within each participating country. ›

Means of implementation

Financing and Cost Evaluation:

46. Annual international financing of about US$ 10 million will be needed: US$ 7 million for technical assistance and US$ 3 million for strengthening international institutions. 4/

Capacity Building:

47. Proposals on capacity building for, inter alia, national activities concerning information exchange are made under Programme area E.

D. ESTABLISHMENT OF RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMMES

Basis for Action

48. (Derived from p. 29-31) ‹ There are often alternatives to hazardous chemicals currently in use. Thus, risk reduction can sometimes be achieved by using other chemicals or even non-chemical technologies. The classical example of risk reduction is the substitution of harmless or less harmful substances for harmful ones. Setting standards for chemicals in each environmental media (food, water, consumer goods, etc), is another example of risk reduction. In a wider context risk reduction involves international approaches to reduce the risks of selected chemicals taking into account the

entire life cycle of the chemicals. Such approaches could encompass both regulatory and non-regulatory measures including, inter alia, the promotion of the use of cleaner products and technologies, product labelling, use limitations, and the phasing out or banning of chemicals.

49. In the agricultural area, integrated pest management including the use of biological control agents as alternatives to toxic pesticides, is one way of risk reduction.

50. Other areas of risk reduction encompass the prevention of chemical accidents, prevention of poisoning by chemicals and the undertaking of toxico-vigilance and coordination of clean-up and rehabilitation of areas damaged by toxic chemicals. ›

51. The OECD Council has decided that OECD member countries should establish or strengthen national risk reduction programmes. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) has introduced initiatives regarding Responsible Care and Product Stewardship aimed to reduce chemical risks. UNEP's Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme is designated to assist decision-makers and technical personnel to improve community awareness of hazardous installations and to prepare response plans. The ILO has published a Code of Practice on the prevention of major industrial accidents and is preparing an international instrument on the prevention of industrial disasters for eventual adoption in 1993.

Objective

52. (Derived from p. 32) ‹ To reduce unacceptable or unreasonable risks to the extent economically feasible, posed by chemicals employing a broad-based approach, involving a wide range of risk reduction options and by taking precautionary measures derived from a broad based life-cycle analysis. ›

Activities

Management-related:

53. Governments should:

a) (Derived from p. 33 a) ‹ Adopt policies based on precautionary and anticipatory principles, as well as on the lifecycle approach, to chemical management, covering manufacturing, trade, use and disposal. ›

b) ** (p. 33 b) ‹ [Adopt policies and legal frameworks and procedures to identify, regulate and minimize the use of hazardous chemicals, by substitution, severely restricting the use, and phasing out of the production and use, as a priority for those chemicals which are on the prohibition lists of international conventions, in particular asbestos materials and organohalogen compounds.] › **

c) ** (p. 33 e, f) ‹ Increase efforts to identify national needs for standard setting and implementation in the context of the FAO/WHO Codex alimentarius in order to minimize adverse effects of chemicals in food.

d) Develop national policies and adopt the necessary regulatory framework for prevention of accidents (land use planning, permit systems, reporting requirements on accidents, etc.) and work with OECD/UNEP international directory of regional response centres and APELL programme. › **

e) Promote the establishment of national poison control centres to ensure prompt and adequate diagnosis and treatment of poisonings.

f) (Derived from p. 33 h) ‹ [Develop programmes including research, to replace toxic chemicals with alternative clean technologies and less hazardous substitutes, and especially such toxic chemicals for which there is reason to believe that their use may need to be restricted or banned, including the ones which are on the prohibition list of international conventions, in particular asbestos material and organohalogen compounds.] ›

g) (Derived from p. 33 k) ‹ Reduce the over-dependence on the use of agricultural chemicals through alternative farming practices, integrated pest management or other appropriate means. ›

h) ** (p. 33 m) ‹ [Require] manufacturers, importers and others using toxic/hazardous chemicals to develop emergency response procedures and preparation of on-site and off-site emergency response plans. › **

i) ** (p. 33 p) ‹ Identify, assess, reduce, and minimize, or eliminate as far as feasible by environmentally sound disposal, risks from storage of outdated chemicals. › **

54. (Derived from p. 34) ‹ Industries should [Develop an internationally agreed upon code of principles for the management of trade in chemicals]. ›

Data and Information:

55. Governments and institutions, with the cooperation of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and appropriate agencies and programmes of the United Nations should:

a) ** (p. 35 c) ‹ Promote exchange of information on national and regional activities to reduce the risks of chemicals. › **

b) (Derived from p. 33 g) ‹ Cooperate in the development of chemical risk communication guidelines at the national level to promote information exchange with the public and the understanding of risks. ›

International and Regional Cooperation and Coordination:

56. International organizations with active participation of Governments and non-governmental organizations should:

a) (Derived from p. 33 j) ‹ Undertake concerted activities to reduce risks of selected chemicals, taking into account the entire life cycle of the chemicals. These activities could encompass both regulatory and non-regulatory measures including the promotion of the use of cleaner products and technologies; emission inventories; product labelling; use limitations; economic incentives; and the phasing out or banning of chemicals. ›

b) ** (p. 33 i) ‹ Collaborate to develop common criteria to determine which chemicals are suitable candidates for concerted risk reduction activities. › **

c) ** (p. 35 d) ‹ Coordinate concerted risk reduction activities. › **

d) ** (p. 33 l) ‹ Develop policies for manufacturers, importers and others using toxic/hazardous chemicals to disclose toxicity information declaring risks and emergency response arrangements; › **

e) ** (p. 33 n) ‹ Encourage large industrial enterprises including transnational corporations and other enterprises to introduce policies and commitment to adopt equivalent or not less stringent standards of operation, as in the country of origin. › **

f) Encourage and support small and medium size industry to develop and adopt relevant procedures for risk reduction in their activities.

g) ** (p. 33 o) ‹ [Prohibit the exporting of chemical products, the sale of which is banned in the state of origin.] › **

h) ** (p. 33 d) ‹ Encourage national and regional work to harmonize evaluation of pesticides. › **

i) (Derived from p. 35 e) ‹ [Promote and develop legal instruments and mechanisms to phase out the production and use of asbestos materials, formulating programmes to substitute for them with safer alternatives]. ›

j) ** (p. 35 a) ‹ Formalize networks of emergency response centres. › **

Means of implementation

Financial and Cost Evaluation:

57. Risk assessment is a prerequisite for many actions needed to meet the objectives of this programme area. These costs are included in estimates for programme areas A and E and part of the costs of national-level programmes are

included under programme area E. About US$ 4 million will be needed annually from international community for training and strengthening the emergency and poison control centres. 5/

Scientific and Technological Means:

58. Governments in cooperation with relevant international organizations and programmes should:

a) ** (p. 35 b) ‹ Promote technology that would minimize the use of hazardous chemicals and processes in all countries. › **

b) (Derived from p. 33 c) ‹ Carry out national reviews of earlier accepted pesticides and reviews of the possible substitution of other pest-control methods, particularly for pesticides which are toxic and/or persistent and/or bio-accumulative. ›

Capacity Building:

59. Strengthen national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals, including risk reduction, as proposed under Programme area E.

E. STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

Basis for Action

60. ** (p. 36-38) ‹ Many countries lack national systems to cope with chemical risks. In several countries with systems in place there is an urgent need to make the systems more efficient.

61. Basic elements for national sound management of chemicals are: (i) adequate legislation; (ii) information gathering and dissemination; (iii) capacity for risk assessment and interpretation; (iv) establishment of risk management policy; (v) capacity for implementation and enforcement; (vi) capacity for rehabilitation of contaminated sites and poisoned persons.

62. As management of chemicals takes place within a number of sectors, related to various national ministries, experience suggests that an interministerial coordinating mechanism is essential. › **

Objective

63. ** (p. 39) ‹ National systems for environmentally sound management of chemicals including legislation and provisions for implementation and enforcement should be in place in all countries to the extent possible by the year [2000]. › **

Activities

Management-related:

64. Governments, with the collaboration of appropriate intergovernmental organizations, and agencies and programmes of the United Nations should:

a) Promote and support multi-disciplinary approaches to chemical safety problems;

b) ** (p. 41 a) ‹ [Establish an interministerial coordinating mechanism, presided over by a senior member of the Government, to provide liaison between all parties involved in chemical safety activities (e.g. agriculture, education, industry, labour, health, transportation, police, civil defense, economic affairs, research institutions, poison control centres).] › **

c) ** (p. 41 b) ‹ Develop institutional mechanisms for the management of chemicals. › ** including effective means of enforcement;

d) ** (WG.II/L.19/Rev.1, p. 9 h) ‹ [Governments according to their possibilities and with the help of multilateral cooperation should encourage industry to dispose of any such banned or severely restricted chemicals that are still in stock [or in use]/[but not in use], as soon as possible, in an environmentally sound manner.] › **

e) ** (p. 41 e) ‹ [Develop networks of emergency response centres, including poison control centres]. › **

f) ** (p. 41 f) ‹ Develop national and local capabilities to response to accidents by full implementation of the APELL and similar programmes and regularly tested and updated emergency plans consistent with the OECD guiding principles on accident prevention, preparedness and response, where appropriate. › **

g) ** (p. 41 h) ‹ In cooperation with industry develop emergency response procedures, identifying necessary means and equipment in industries and plants to reduce impacts of accidents. › ** (Ref. also Agenda 21 chapter on "Business and Industry")

h) (Derived from p. 41 i) ‹ [Adopt legislation to prevent illegal import and export of toxic and dangerous products to strengthen institutional capacities for this purpose.]/[Employ measures, primarily in the area of enforcement, to prevent the illegal import and export of toxic and dangerous products and strengthen institutional capacities for this purpose.] ›

Data and Information:

65. Governments should:

a) (Derived from p. 41 b and 40 k) ‹ Direct information campaigns to the general public to increase the awareness of problems on chemical

safety including programmes providing information about chemical stockpiles, environmentally safer alternatives and emission inventories which could also be a tool for risk reduction. ›
(Ref. also Agenda 21 chapter on "Promotion of Education, Training and Public Awareness")

b) (Derived from p. 41 c) ‹ In conjunction with IRPTC, establish national registers and databases, including safety information, for chemicals. ›

International and Regional Cooperation and Coordination:

66. International organizations should:

a) ** (p. 40 a-c) ‹ Prepare guidelines with advice and check lists for enacting legislation in the chemical safety field.

b) [Support countries, particularly developing countries, to develop and further strengthen national legislation and its implementation.]

c) [Build on past, present and future risk assessment works at international level, to support countries, particularly developing countries to develop and strengthen risk assessment capabilities at national and regional levels to minimize and when appropriate prevent risk in the manufacturing and the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals.] › **

d) (Derived from p. 40 d) ‹ Promote full implementation of UNEP's APELL programme and in particular the use of an OECD/UNEP international directory of emergency response centres. ›

e) ** (p. 40 f) ‹ Cooperate with developing countries in the setting up of an institutional mechanism at the national level and the development of appropriate tools for management of chemicals. › **

f) (Derived from p. 40 g) ‹ Arrange at all levels of production and use information courses aimed at staff working on chemical safety issues. ›

g) ** (p. 40 h) ‹ Develop mechanisms to make maximum use in countries of internationally available information. › **

h) (Derived from p. 40 j) ‹ Invite UNEP to develop, and implement guiding principles for accident prevention, preparedness and response for Governments, industry and the public, building on the ILO, OECD and ECE work in this area. ›

i) (Derived from p. 40 l) ‹ Cooperate with developing countries in strengthening their institutional and regulatory capacities in order to prevent illegal import and export of toxic and dangerous products. ›

Means of Implementation

Financing and Cost Evaluations:

67. National annual costs for regulatory efforts, including enforcement, have been estimated as a proportion of the value of chemicals manufactured or imported. On this basis the annual requirements in developing countries would amount to US$ 500-600 million. It is suggested that US$ 100-150 million be provided as concessional finance for this purpose to developing countries by the international community. 6/

Scientific and Technological Means:

68. International organizations should:

a) Promote the establishment and strengthening of national laboratories to ensure the availability of adequate national control in all countries regarding the importation, manufacture and use of chemicals.

b) ** (p. 40 i) ‹ Promote translation where feasible of internationally prepared documents on chemical safety into local languages and support various levels of regional activities related to technology [transfer] and information exchange. › **

Human Resource Development:

69. International organizations should:

a) (Derived from p. 40 e) ‹ Enhance technical training for developing countries in relation to risk management of chemicals. ›

b) Promote and increase support for research activities at the local level by providing grants and fellowships for studies at recognized research institutions active in disciplines of importance for chemical safety programmes.

70. Governments should:

** (p. 41 g) ‹ Organize, in collaboration with industry and trade unions, training programmes in management of chemicals, including emergency response, targeted at all levels. › ** In all countries basic elements of chemical safety principles should be included in the primary education curricula.

Explanatory notes:

1/ The words ".... and wastes" have been left out from the end of this sub-heading, since it is now treated separately under the chapter on "Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes".

The same applies to paragraphs 64 h and 66 i where the reference to "toxic and dangerous wastes" has been left out in this document.

A progress report to be prepared by UNEP on "Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes" will be included in an Addendum to this document.

2/ Throughout this document the term "Governments" also refers to the European Community acting in the sphere of its competence.

3/ The costs to Governments in providing background documents and draft assessment statements are included in costing for programme E under strengthening of national regulatory efforts.

4/ The international costs of US$ 10 million annually include costs for worldwide training programmes and workshops to increase the national capacities to enable interpretation and handling of data, including use of computerized systems. It also includes the elaboration of a legally binding instrument related to the exchange of information on toxic chemicals as well as the strengthening of international institutions. Other costs related to information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks at national level are included in costing under Programme E.

5/ The international costs of US$ 4 million annually include costs for training of trainers for emergency response centres as well as professional staff of emergency and poison control centres. The costs of infrastructure support for both types of centres are also included.

6/ National costs for regulatory efforts, including harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals and information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks have been estimated proportionally to the value of chemicals manufactured or imported.